

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: GERVASE A. SCHMITT

For: METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A BOAT STEERING WHEEL  
WITH FINGER GRIP INDENTATIONS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box NON-FEE AMENDMENT  
Washington, D. C. 20231

SIR:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This Amendment is filed with the filing of a divisional patent application to place the claims of the divisional application in better form for examination.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Kindly amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, line 1, and on the Abstract page, line 1, please change the title from "BOAT STEERING WHEEL WITH FINGER GRIP INDENTATIONS" to - -METHOD

OF MANUFACTURING A BOAT STEERING WHEEL WITH FINGER GRIP  
INDENTATIONS - -.

Page 1, lines 4 - 6, delete the paragraph forming the cross-reference to related applications and substitute therefor the following paragraph:

- - This application is a division of co-pending U. S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/561,549, filed April 28, 2000, and claims domestic priority on U. S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/131,517, filed April 29, 1999, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference. - -.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

Kindly cancel Claims 1 - 8 and 15 - 19.

9. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a stainless steel steering wheel rim comprising the steps of:

placing a tubular steel circular blank having an oval-shaped cross-section defining an elongated axis into a tool having a circular die;

striking the tubular steel blank simultaneously with multiple forming punches spaced equidistantly along the circumference of said circular die, each said forming punch being formed with a compound curved shape to form an indentation axially into one side of said blank;

then, indexing the blank circumferentially relative to said forming punches to position said blank for a subsequent formation of a new indentation into said blank; and

repeating said striking and indexing steps until said one side is formed with a desired number of indentations having a defined spacing in a predetermined pattern.

#### REMARKS

1. A restriction requirement was given in the parent application (Serial No. 09/561,549) resulting in the cancellation of the method claims (Claims 9 - 14) from the parent application. This Amendment is filed with the filing of the divisional application to cancel the apparatus claims (Claims 1 - 8 and 15 - 19) from this application and to make a slight clarifying amendment to the independent method claim (Claim 9) to place this divisional application in better condition for allowance.

Applicants have also amended the specification to change the Title to reflect the subject matter of the method claims and to change the Cross-Reference to Related Applications to identify the parent application.

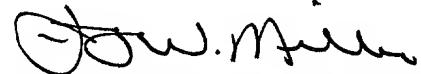
Applicant respectfully submits that the claims remaining in this application are in condition for allowance, which is courteously solicited.

2. In summary, Claim 9 has been amended, Claims 1 - 8 and 15 - 19 have been canceled, and Claims 9 - 14 remain in the application. Applicant believes that the claims are allowable based on the foregoing amendments. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn and that all claims remaining in this case be allowed.

Pursuant to currently recommended Patent Office practice, the Examiner is expressly authorized to call Applicant's attorney, if in his judgment disposition of this application could be expedited or if he considers the case ready for final disposition by other than allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 18, 2002



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**Appendix for Amendments to the Specification**

The Title, appearing on the first page of the application and on the Abstract Page, was changed from "BOAT STEERING WHEEL WITH FINGER GRIP INDENTATIONS" to - -METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A BOAT STEERING WHEEL WITH FINGER GRIP INDENTATIONS- -.

The first paragraph of the application, containing the text of the section with the heading of "Cross-Reference to Related Applications, at Page 1, lines 4 - 6, was amended to add a reference to the co-pending parent application Serial No. 09/561,549 as follows:

This application is a division of co-pending U. S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/561,549, filed April 28, 2000, and claims domestic priority on U. S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/131,517, filed April 29, 1999, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

**Appendix for Claim Amendments**

Kindly cancel Claims 1 - 8 and 15 - 19.

9. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a stainless steel steering wheel rim comprising the steps of:

placing a tubular steel circular blank having an oval-shaped cross-section defining an elongated axis into a tool having a circular die;

striking the tubular steel blank simultaneously with multiple forming punches spaced equidistantly along the circumference of said circular die, each said forming punch being formed with a compound curved shape to form an indentation axially into one side of said blank;

then, indexing the blank circumferentially relative to said forming punches to position said blank for a subsequent formation of a new indentation into said blank; and

repeating said striking and indexing steps until said one side is formed with a desired number of indentations having a defined spacing in a predetermined pattern.